

Arts Education Task Force Meeting
January 11, 2002
North Dakota Heritage Center, Bismarck, ND

Member Present:

Taylor Barnes, Gail Benson, Bill Eckroth, Linda Ehreth, Dennis Fox, SuAnne Frasier, Judith Greenwood, Dr. Ken Haught, Jerrel Holm, Cynthia Jelleberg, Dr. Paul Johnson, Paula Lindekugel-Willis, Barbara Livermont, Jon Martinson, Denese Odegard, Gene Okerland, John Salwei, Marietta Turner, Jan Webb, Linda Whitney

Agenda/Discussion:

- ****Where Challenge and Opportunity Meet: Arts Education for all Students***, a 1991-92 task force report that focused on the state of arts education in ND during the early 1990s and made recommendations for the next decade.
- ****The Arts And Children: A Success Story***, a 12 minute video produced by the Arts Education Partnership was shown. Sometimes the most effective way to reach an organization or school and its constituents is to make an initial presentation to its leadership and win their support so they will be motivated to help you reach the largest number of people in the most productive way possible. Educational handouts are available with the video. More information about the Arts Education Partnership is available on the web site www.aep-arts.org.
- ****Gaining the Arts Advantage*** and ****Champions of Change***, arts education research reports that supports arts education were discussed. These provide arts education supporters with both evidence of *why* the arts are critical to teaching and learning and *how* to build strong district-wide arts education.
 - ***Gaining the Arts Advantage: Lessons from School Districts that Value Arts Education*** is the first national study to examine the generation and sustenance of strong arts education throughout entire school districts. The study discusses interrelating factors that enhance and sustain strong district-wide arts education programs; provides valuable lessons from the field (from superintendents, school board members, principals, district arts coordinators, arts teachers, students parents, and other community members);-includes strategies for overcoming obstacles to district-wide arts education; examines eight different school systems in depth that were observed on site by experienced teams which included school district superintendents as well as arts educators; presents the creative solutions of 83 additional school districts participating in this study, selected from the more than 500 districts recommended.
 - The companion brochure, ****Why Your Child Needs the Arts Advantage and How You Can Gain It***,
 - provides action steps based on the findings of this two-year study

- identifies interrelating factors that contribute to the creation of strong, district-wide arts
- ***Champions of Change: The Impact of the Arts on Learning*** compiles the results of 7 major arts education research projects and provides important evidence of enhanced learning and achievement when the arts are an integral part of the educational experience, both in and out of K-12 schools.

(*Any of these materials are available for loan from the ND Council on the Arts.)

- Supporting arts in the curriculum topics that were addressed:
 - ***ABC (Arts as Basic Curriculum) Schools*** focus on arts centered curricula. Educators in these schools report that the adoption of an arts-centered school curriculum has positively affected student and teacher attitudes, student behavior, parent participation and other key variables that are linked to general student achievement. South Dakota's program is still active, but not at the same intensity - due to a few factors: 1) needed \$\$ to bring the participants back to share ideas and communicate – possibly a listserv would have been beneficial, and 2) staff changes shifted the focus.
 - ***A+Schools*** is an approach to teaching and learning grounded in the belief that the arts can play a central role in how children learn. This program is going strong in North Carolina schools and shows strong evidence of school improvement. More information is available on the web site www.aplus-schools.org.
 - Eugene Field Elementary in Sioux Falls, SD is an A+ School.
 - Involves the entire school population in a week-long training session prior to start of school.
 - ***No Child Left Behind*** is the most significant overhaul of education law since the passage of the 1965 Elementary and Secondary Education Act and is actually very encouraging for arts education advocates. More information is available on the web site www.ed.gov.
- **2002 Arts Education Task Force goals and action steps** were addressed.
 - The overall goals for the task force were reviewed:
 1. **Promote arts education in all North Dakota schools.**
 2. **Promote implementation of the dance, drama, music and visual arts content and performance standards in North Dakota schools.**
 3. **Provide professional development for teams of educators, arts specialists, artists and others who work in arts education activities with children and communities.**
 - Small group discussion focused on identifying action steps for achieving Goal 1; following this activity the large group prioritized the action steps. See “Action Step Priorities” attachment to review the results.

Next meeting date and location:

- The Arts Education Task Force will meet on March 8th, 1-3 pm, in the Alumni Room located in the Student Union Building on Bismarck State College Campus.
- Bismarck State College is located in NW Bismarck; if traveling on I-94 take Exit 157 (maps will be included for participants who live outside the Bismarck area).